



# Municipal Government Representatives

**Tuesday, August 13, 2019**  
1:00 – 2:00 pm ET

# TODAY'S AGENDA

- Welcome
- Summary of last call
- Today's Topic
- Check-Ins
- Presentation with Niagara
- Discussion
- Closing Announcements

## **GOAL of the MGR-CoP**

To learn about and share information about issues and challenges that influence and/or affect the ways that municipal or regional staff (or those working closely with the staff) engage in planning, community engagement and evaluation for poverty reduction.

## **Today's TOPIC**

How are municipalities/regions evaluating their impact and communicating this with stakeholders.

# CHECK INS

Please introduce

- Your name and role
- Where you're calling from
- Briefly share your experience in evaluating your impact and how are you communicating this with stakeholders (1-2 sentences)



# Niagara Prosperity Initiative

Established 2008

Annual investment of \$1.5 million to support poverty reduction, help build capacity, and improve the quality of life for residents living in poverty.



# Niagara Prosperity Initiative

## **Place-Based Strategy**

### **Goals:**

- Create stronger and more prosperous neighbourhoods
- Improve engagement of people living in poverty
- Improve health for people living in poverty, and
- Create greater economic prosperity for individuals and their communities

# NPI Approach

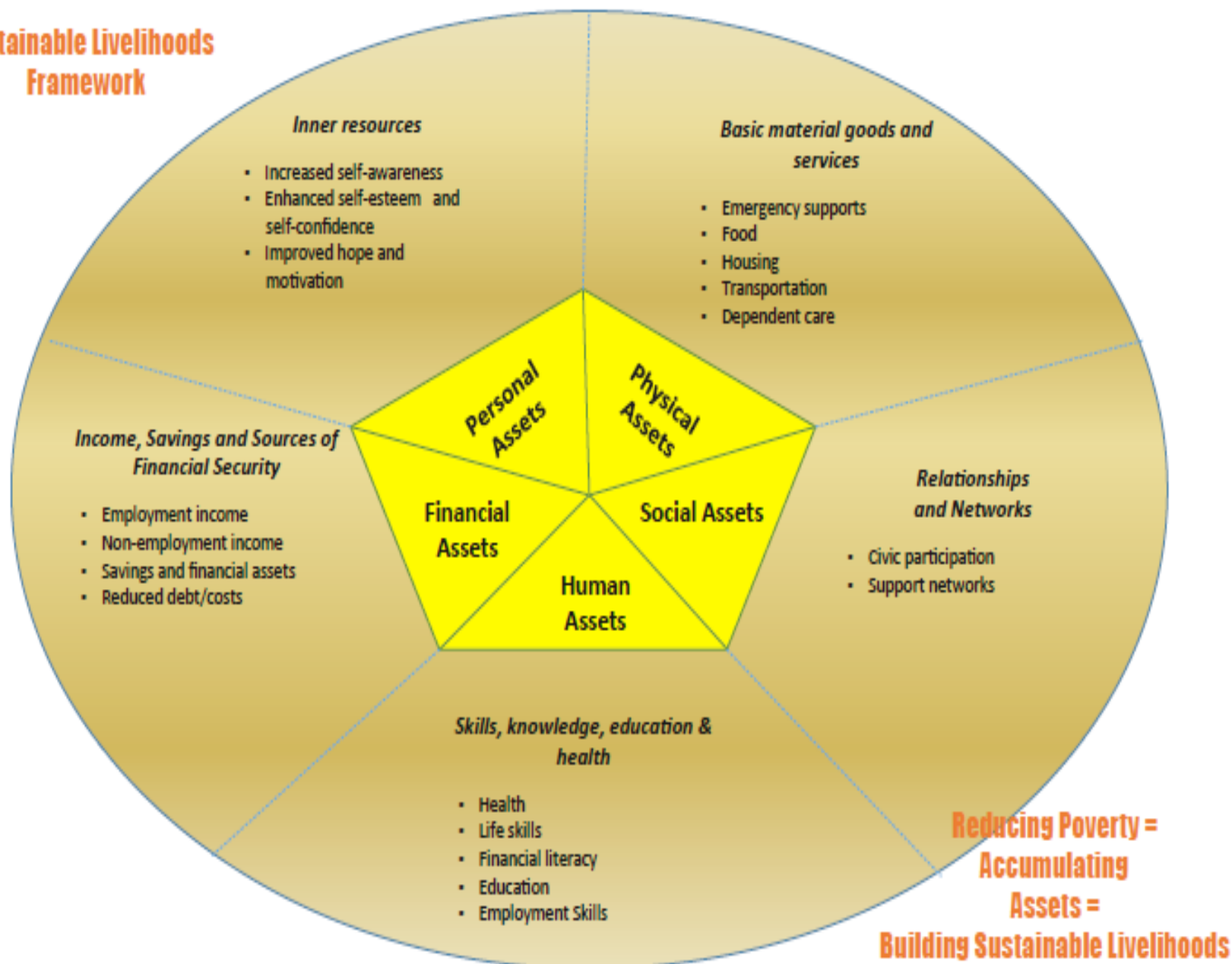
- Use available data (poverty reports; mapping tool data)
- Listen to the community and use expert advice on how to address poverty; use the recommendations from the poverty reports
- Place the recommendations in a Request For Proposal (RFP) for the community to respond on how poverty will be addressed given funding
- Funding is allocated through a place-based approach – addressing poverty at the community/neighbourhood level
- Has an independent review committee decide on who receives funding
- Contracts a secretariat to manage the NPI contracts
- Employs a Convener to assist in collaboration efforts in the community
- Complete Short-term Project evaluation to provide outcome data for ongoing investment
- Report on outcomes to Public Health and Social Services Committee

# Niagara Region Investments in Poverty Reduction

NPI Contracted Amounts by Project Type (2008-2019)				
Types of Projects	\$		# of Projects	
Assistance with Shelter	\$1,646,680.37	10.0%	29	7.5%
Research / Conference / Seminar	\$112,743.86	0.7%	5	1.3%
Transportation Initiatives	\$326,671.66	2.0%	10	2.6%
Job Specific Skills	\$1,438,615.46	8.7%	28	7.3%
Direct Services	\$1,576,640.07	9.6%	28	7.3%
Community Gardens	\$673,112.01	4.1%	22	5.7%
Back to School Programs	\$575,366.64	3.5%	8	2.1%
Life Skills Programs for Adults	\$2,498,828.56	15.2%	50	13.0%
Access to Food	\$1,351,806.24	8.2%	31	8.0%
Community Development	\$2,145,418.12	13.0%	46	11.9%
Educational Programs for children/youth	\$4,097,155.87	24.9%	129	33.4%
	<b>\$16,443,038.86</b>		<b>386</b>	



## Sustainable Livelihoods Framework



# Project Outcomes - Assets

- In the application we ask what Assets are the projects hoping to improve for people -

## **Personal Assets**

Increase self-awareness; Enhanced self-esteem and self-confidence; Improved hope and motivation

## **Human Assets**

Health; Life Skills; Financial Literacy; Education; Employment

## **Social Assets**

Civic Participation (community engagement through participation in community groups and activities, children and youth participate in activities that support growth and development, seniors participate in services that promote active, independent living); Networks

## **Financial Assets**

Employment; Non-Employment Income; Assets (obtaining capital like a computer or car); Financial Health (reduced cost and/or debt)

## **Physical Assets**

Emergency Supports (shelter, security from violence, prevention from eviction or utility shut-off, emergency food assistance); Food; Housing; Transportation; Child and Dependent Care

# Project Outcomes - Assets

- At the end of the project we request a % of Testimonials be completed using the Most Significant Change template.

Most Significant Change Story Collection Form	
Name of person recording the story	
Name of story teller	
Location	
Date of recording	
Story teller's connection to the community	
Confidentiality form signed	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Testimonial	
Name	
Address (including postal code)	
How did you first become involved in this project?	
What is the best thing or change that has happened as a result of taking part in this project?	
Why is this significant?	
Additional Information	

# Project Outcomes - Assets

- From the Testimonials an analysis is completed to look for the frequency that increases in Asset Types are mentioned

Example: “I got involved with the project when we were not getting enough food because it was expensive. I like this project because it showed me how to cook different foods and vegetables and I know that vegetables are the best foods to eat. These classes are important to me because I like being around people and not being alone.” From this testimonial we were able to pull out some outcomes -

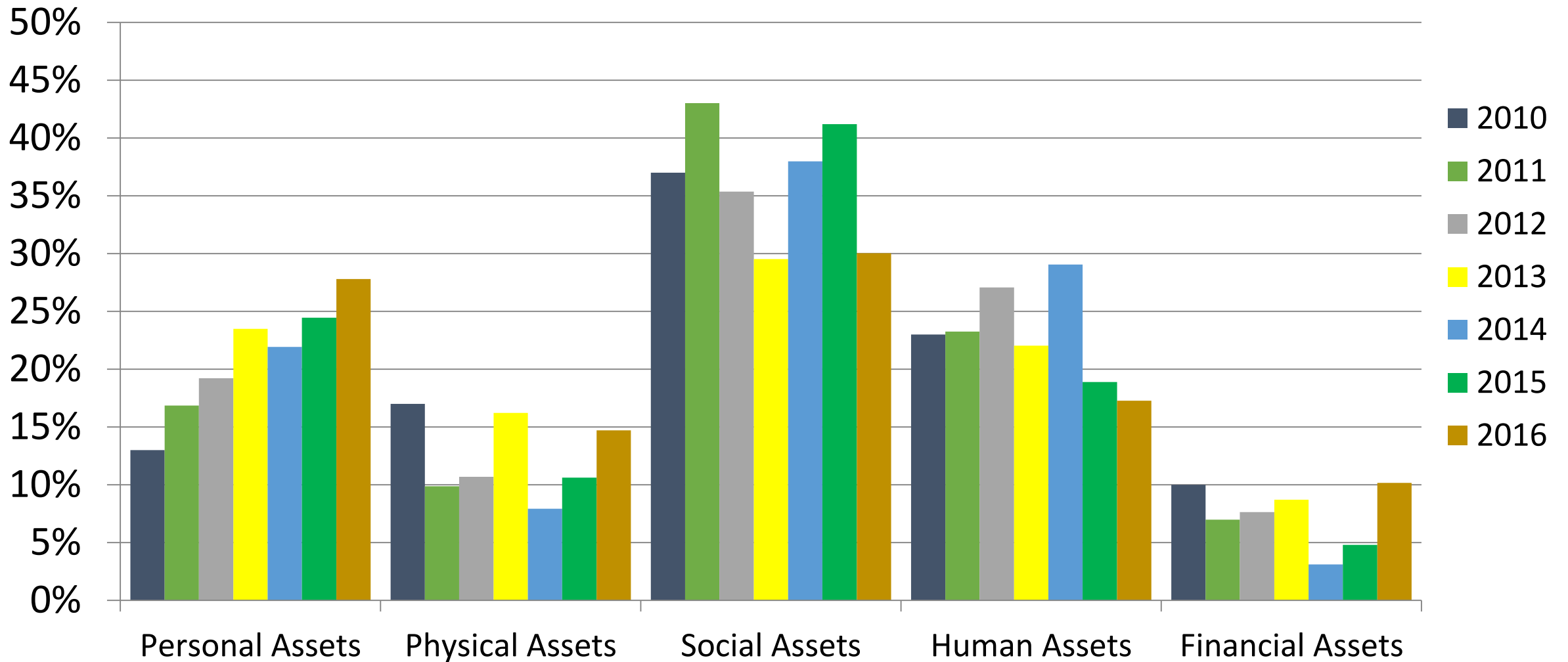
- Increasing household income/decreasing cost of basic needs
  - Increased food security
  - Enhanced life skill
  - Enhanced personal support networks
- This is done by Project, by Municipality and by Neighbourhood

# Testimonials mined for Assets Building

Personal Assets	Increase self-awareness		11
	Enhanced self-esteem and self-confidence		47
	Improved hope and motivation		41
	Other Personal Assets		42
Physical Assets	Obtained temporary shelter		0
	Secured protection from violence		9
	Prevented eviction or utility shut-off		0
	Social Assets	Received emergency food assistance	18
		Increased food security	118
		Obtained safe, affordable, rental housing	13
		Attained home ownership	50
		Obtained access to reliable transportation	36
		Obtained care for child or other dependant	156
		Other Social Assets	
		Obtained needed health services (medical, dental, mental health)	9
	Human Assets	Enhanced life skills	215
		Increased ability to manage income and accumulate assets	1
		Completed high school or high school equivalency	7
		Completed post-secondary education program	0
		Obtained employment skills	13
		Other Human Assets	
	Financial Assets	Unemployed and attained a job (include self-employment)	5
		Employed and obtained an increase in employment income	0
		Achieved living wage employment and benefits	0
		Increased income from non-employment sources (accessing benefits, tax credits, subsidies)	1
		Build financial consent	2
		Obtained capital asset (computer, car)	0
		Reduced cost	64
		Reduced debt	0
		Other Financial Assets	1



# Improvements to Individuals (2010 - 2016 Projects)



# Example of Project Review

Project		Description		
McLaughlin Community House & Denistoun Outreach		Programming includes cooking, sewing, arts, crafts, woodworking, girl-boy talk, afterschool homework help, summer program, reading, and community gardens at McLaughlin Community House. In 2016, it is planned to commence programming for low-income youth in the Densitoun residential development by transporting these youth to service locations at McLaughlin Community House or Faith Welland Outreach.		
Agency				
Faith Welland Outreach				
Municipality				
Welland				
Contract Requirements		Number Served		Highest Assets Impact
Contract Amount - \$35,007.59				<b>Personal Assets:</b> Improved hope and motivation <b>Social Assets:</b> Low income people are engaged in their community
Within Budget <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Met Targets Established <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<b>Testimonial</b> "I love to volunteer with the activities and I'm part of the women's group... the Community House helps us to feel happy and feel that this is our family. Thanks to all the activities my kids have a special place to go during the summer doing nice things instead of being just at home watching TV."
Completed Objectives <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Reporting Requirements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Site/Program Review <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

# PHSSC Report

**Subject:** Evaluation of 2015 and 2016 Niagara Prosperity Initiative Projects  
**Report to:** Public Health and Social Services Committee  
**Report date:** Tuesday, September 25, 2018

## Recommendations

That this report **BE RECEIVED** for information.

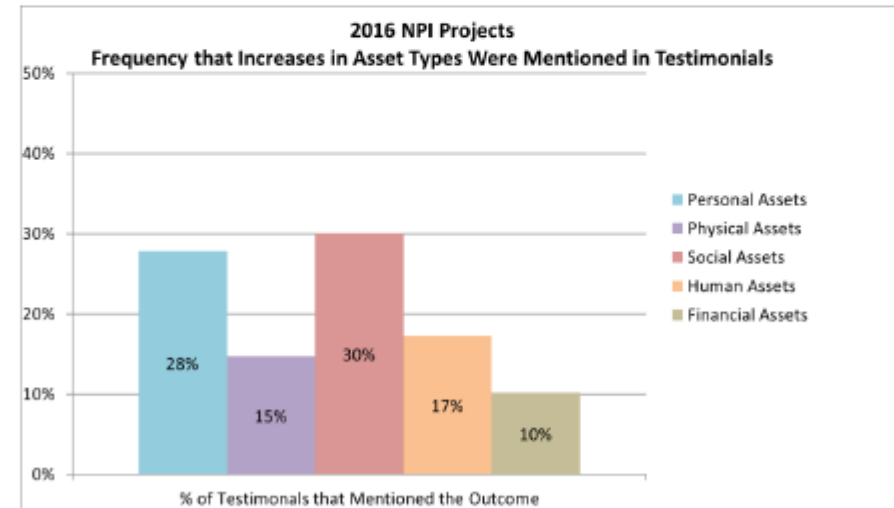
## Key Facts

- Since 2008 Regional Council has invested \$1.5 million annually toward increasing prosperity for Niagara families living in poverty.
- Projects funded through Niagara Prosperity Initiative (NPI) can be for one or two years. All 2015 projects were completed in December 2017 and all 2016 projects were completed in June 2018.
- This report provides information on 2015 and 2016 NPI funded projects.

## Financial Considerations

The investment of \$1.5 million is reviewed annually by Council as part of Community Services' operating budget. Funds invested were approved as part of the 2015 and 2016 operating budgets, respectively.

In 2016, 789 testimonials were received; the chart below details how investments have increased assets. From the testimonials, an improvement in social assets continues to be the highest outcome of NPI funding:



The following are testimonial examples of increased social assets for individuals served through the 2015 and 2016 projects. More examples are available in Appendix A.

# Brock Research

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## Niagara Prosperity Initiative Evaluation

[Main](#)[NPI Evaluation](#)[Our Team](#)[Participant Feedback](#)[Contact Us](#)[Brock University](#) > [Niagara Prosperity Initiative Evaluation](#) > [Our Team](#)[SHARE](#) A small red icon of a speech bubble with a share symbol inside.

## Our Team

### PLANNING TEAM MEMBERS

[DR. ANTENEH AYANSO](#)[DR. DARLENE CIUFFETELLI-PARKER](#)[DR. DAWN PRENTICE](#)[DR. DENNIS SORON](#)[DR. FELICE MARTINELLO](#)[DR. KEVIN GOSINE](#)[DR. JEFF BOGGS](#)[DR. JOYCE ENGEL](#)[MARC TODD](#)[DR. MARY-BETH RADDON](#)[DR. MICHAEL BUSSERI](#)[NATALIE CHAUMONT](#)

The NPI evaluation is being carried out by an trans-disciplinary team of scholars from Brock University. The diversity of our research team allows us to take a comprehensive, mixed-methods approach to evaluating the various components of the Niagara Prosperity Initiative.

Click on the names of our team members to learn about the experience and expertise they bring to the evaluation.



# QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

What are your challenges with evaluation and/or communication of it?

What could you change as a result of what you learned today?

New insights? New strategies?



# Closing Announcements

Today's notes and meeting resources will be circulated in the coming days

**Next Call:** TUESDAY OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup> 1-2PM ET

**Topic:** What are effective strategies to engage municipal leaders so that we get our issue on the agenda?

Content lead/speaker? Chair?

# Upcoming Learning Opportunities

## Putting Community into Food Security

August 27<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 – 1:00 pm ET  
Speakers: Jill Umbach and the Bruce Grey Poverty Taskforce

Learn how the Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force has transformed approaches to food security in the area through: food security conversations, a community food centre model and the use of a food charter as a policy tool.

An invitation will be sent to convenors.



# MEMBER GATHERING 2019

## SAVE THE DATE

**October 8-10 | Waterloo, Ontario  
CRP Members Only**

Participate in interactive exercises, learn from exciting keynotes, and practice new skills.

- Future Search – CRP 2020
- Successes and failures
- PiPs and workshops
- Cultural experiences
- 2-night accommodations covered



***Registration Available Now! Please check in with your Manager of Cities***





# Thank you!

If you have any questions or content for the next call, please contact [elle@tamarackcommunity.ca](mailto:elle@tamarackcommunity.ca)